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## LETTERS

### THE SOVIETS AS SUPERSPIES

IN HIS REVIEW of *The KGB: The Eyes of Russia* (Book World July 26), David Wise agrees with the book's author, Harry Rositzke, that the Soviet Union is not engaged in a massive disinformation campaign within the U.S. and other Western countries.

Mr. Wise writes: "Only by painting the Soviets as superspies can we really get folks exercised about KGB 'agents of influence' in the media and the government, about sinister KGB 'disinformation' that is brainwashing our unsuspecting citizenry, and all the rest of the piddling package of paranoia being peddled [to] the public..."

Is it, in fact, a "piddling package of paranoia" to suggest that the Soviet Union's disinformation campaign is real, and is effective?

Both Mr. Wise and Mr. Rositzke ignore the well-documented fact that disinformation has been central to the Soviet strategy for defeating the West since 1968, when the newly appointed KGB chief, General Yuri Andropov, elevated the disinformation department of the KGB to the status of an independent directorate known as Directorate A.

The goal of this program was set forth by the head of the KGB's Disinformation Directorate. He is quoted by Soviet defectors now in Western Europe as stating that "our friends must always be encouraged to write or say precisely the opposite of our real objectives. Conflict between East and West is a permanent premise of Soviet thought—until the final demise of capitalist power in the West. But this must constantly be dismissed and ridiculed as rightist cold war thinking."

Are not Mr. Wise and Mr. Rositzke, in fact, ridiculing the very idea of a disinformation campaign?

The Communist tactic of disinformation predates the 1968 KGB decision. It is not new and it is incredible that Mr. Rositzke, with his years of experience in the intelligence field, and Mr. Wise, who presents himself as an authority in this area, would attempt to deny it.

Mr. Wise's attempt to ridicule the very real disinformation campaign being engaged in by the Soviet Union flies in the face of the available evidence.

Why both the author and reviewer are to be found on the same—wrong—side of a question of major importance is difficult to understand. By ignoring the very sophisticated disinformation campaign being conducted by the Soviet Union we simply make it easier for those who would mislead us to do so. In this sense, we become accomplices in our own deception.

Allan C. Brownfeld, Associate Editor,  
AIM (Accuracy In Media) REPORT

### David Wise replies:

"Accuracy in Media" has, alas, not read my review accurately. I nowhere state that the Soviets do not engage in propaganda. All governments do. But AIM vastly underestimates the intelligence of the American people and their ability to think for themselves. Those who tell us that the media and government are honeycombed by Soviet "agents of influence" or that the American public is being "brainwashed" by the KGB are, as I have suggested, performing a disservice.